THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) A phased programme for track renewal has been drawn. Railways draft VII Plan envisages renewal of 21000 kms. of track at a cost of Rs. 2500 crores at the price prevailing at the time of preparation of draft Plan. The size of the Plan is yet to be finalised. For the year 1985-86, renewal of 3000 kms. of track is proposed at a cost of Rs. 415 crores (net). The total arrears of renewal as on 1-4-85 are estimated to be 19,550 kms. The progress of the renewals will depend on availability of funds.

Infant Mortality Rate

198. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to •tate;

(a) what is the rate of infant mortality in India *vis-a-vis* U. S., U. K., Sweden, Pakistan, China; and

(b) the reasons for the high rate of infant mortality in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) As per S.R.S. estimates in 1981, infant mortality rate in India was 110.4 per thousand live births. According to available information the infant mortality rates ol other countries are as follows:—

U.S.A.	....	12.1	(1981)
U.K.	....	11 7	(1980—84)
Sweden	....	7.0	(1981)
Pakistan	....	119.8	(1980—84)
China	....	48.7	(1975—80)

(b) The main reasons for high rate of infant mortality in India are Pre. maturity, Respiratory diseases, severe malnutrition, diarrhoea, tetanus; etc.

Private Capital for Development of Haldia and Calcutta Ports

199. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propoie to induct private capital for the development of Haldia and Calcutta ports; and

Cb) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The concept of using private funds for development works in major ports has been accepted in principle. The details are yet to be worked out.

Incidents of Firing by Pakistani troops in Siachen in Jammn and Kashmir

200. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHU YAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing on the Indian positions to capture the most strategic points at Siachen area in Kashmir valley and other places at the actual line of control with a view to connecting permanent easy accessible road from the Pak.occupied Kashmir valley to China-occupied Tibet;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether there was any loss of life from the Indian side?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (c) There have been some incidents of firing and attempts by Pakistani troops to dislodge our troops from positions in the Siachen Glacier area. These incidents have resulted in some casualties on both sides. Some firing incidents have also taken place across the Line of Control in J & K.